

October 12, 2015

To: CEQA.Guidelines@resources.ca.gov

From: Charlotte Strem, Physical and Environmental Planning, University of California Office of the President

Proposed change to Checklist question XVII. Utilities and Service Systems f) Landfill capacity

Existing language

XVII. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project: f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Proposed language

XVII Utilities and Service Systems – Would the project: f) Provide facilities to enable recycling and composting in addition to solid waste disposal?

Rationale for proposed change:

CalRecycle testified at the Aug 18, 2015 Assembly Select Committee hearing on Waste Reduction and Recycling in the 21st Century that California has been successful enough at recycling that landfill capacity is no longer a critical issue. The issue now is composting facility capacity and continued expansion of recycling programs. CalRecycle estimated we would need 100 more composting facilities statewide to accommodate the amount of food and greenwaste that needs to be diverted from landfills.

The proposed CEQA checklist question, asking if a project would “provide facilities to enable recycling and composting” could mean documenting how a project conforms to the existing recycling and composting program in the local jurisdiction or, could mean providing contracts for these services and physical facilities on site to enable efficient recycling and compost pick up.

Measures to accommodate recycling and composting could include:

- Including recycling and composting infrastructure and equipment for the facility
- Compost bins and carts in food preparation and generation areas
- Signage and training programs to educate facility users about recycling and composting program
- Space in storage and loading dock areas to handle recycling and compost streams and loading dock areas designed for easy access by collection vehicles and heavy duty pavement leading to those areas to handle large trucks
- Xeriscaping with native plants for low water use to reduce generation of greenwaste trimmings
- Providing a storage area and a program for reusable products on-site
- On-site composting, contract for compost to be handled by a regional compost facility or contribution to the creation of a regional composting facility